

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

- 1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people’s representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
- 2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
- 3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
- 4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

ASEAN Chair’s Special Envoy pays courtesy call on Myanmar’s Acting President and SSPC Chairman

A delegation led by Ms Ma Theresa P Lazaro, Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair to Myanmar and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, paid a courtesy call on Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the National Defence and Security Council Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo, Commission Member and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair to Myanmar and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, and officials from the Philippine Embassy to Myanmar.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed Myanmar’s efforts to optimize cooperation within ASEAN, the good diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Philippines, the circumstances under which the country was compelled to assume responsibility following the massive voter fraud in the 2020 election and the attempt to seize power through unlawful means, recent political developments in Myanmar, and preparations to ensure free and fair elections, including the accuracy of voter lists.

SEE PAGE 3

FROM PAGE 1



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Ms Maria Theresa Parreno Lazaro, Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair to Myanmar and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, exchange handshakes during the latter's courtesy call on the former yesterday.

OPINION

Beware of games harming players and society

PAGE 8



NATIONAL PAGE 5

Voter turnout at 52.13% in Phase I election



NATIONAL PAGE 11

Ayeyawady beaches welcome 22,000+ visitors during New Year

NATIONAL

Notification 1/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

17. Bhaddanta Acinna, Pariyatti Sasana Zawtikakari Aungmyayzeyar Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 6, PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region
18. Bhaddanta Jotika, Padamya Monastery, West Pyigy Pyawbwe Ward, Chanayet-hazan Township, Mandalay Region
19. Bhaddanta Nandaka, Maha Wizaya Monastery, Mahamyaing Ward 2, Mahaaungmyay Township, Mandalay Region
20. Bhaddanta Ariya, Zeyawady Buddhism Learning Centre, No 6 Tetthein Ward, NyaungU, Mandalay Region
21. Bhaddanta Candobhasa, Maha Wizitayama Yanaungminkyaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Kyaungtaiksu Ward, Yamethin, Mandalay Region
22. Dr Bhaddanta Vicittasara, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
23. Dr Ussaha, Hsutaungpyay Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 1, Myingyan, Mandalay Region
24. Bhaddanta Muneinda Lankara, Muneindayama MyoU Thamanaykyaw Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 2, TadaU, Mandalay Region
25. Bhaddanta Vimala Bhivamsa, Mahamyaing Buddhism Learning Centre, Maungngan Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
26. Bhaddanta Dhammarakkhita Lankara, Dhammayama Tawya Buddhism Learning Centre, Aungzeya Ward, Thanbyuzayat, Mon State
27. Bhaddanta Koliyananda, Khemathiwun Buddhism Learning Centre, Kada Village, Chaungzon Township, Mon State
28. Bhaddanta Sukhedhita, Yaylekalay Monastery, Thayettaw Monastery, Ward 12, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region
29. Bhaddanta Naninda, Salin Monastery, Northeast Magyitan Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region
30. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Shwesayan Buddhism Learning Centre, 10 South, Ward 13, Thakayta Township, Yangon Region
31. Bhaddanta Janeya, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
32. Dr Bhaddanta Ghosita, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
33. Bhaddanta Dhammaloka, Abbot Training School, Ward 42, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region
34. Dr Bhaddanta Uttamasiri, Thiriyadana Kanzeyyon Buddhism Learning Centre, Bo Tun Zan Ward, Dawbon Township, Yangon Region
35. Dr Bhaddanta Pandita, Sangha University (Internal/External Missonary Department), Ward 8, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
36. Bhaddanta Ketumala, Dagon Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 155, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region
37. Dr Bhaddanta Yujana, Zayamedini Myotaw Sibin Monastery, Ward Nagyi/14, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region
38. Bhaddanta Indobhasa, Shwenyaungbin Buddhism Learning Centre, South Htaukkyant Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
39. Bhaddanta Panñananda, Sandaku Buddhism Learning Centre, Myothit A+B Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region
40. Bhaddanta Uttamasiri, Naynattha Buddhism Learning Centre, South Linlun Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
41. Bhaddanta Candavara, Dhammwinaya Centre Monastery, Mezalikon Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region
42. Bhaddanta Sundara, Waizayanta Monastery, Shwehintha Tawya Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Ward 7, Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Region

Nun

43. Nun Daw Sumala, Maha Ledi Dhammesaka Nunnery, Ledi Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
44. Nun Daw Yujanasingi, Thitseintchaung Nunnery, Wachet Village, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region
45. Nun Daw Vijjasi, Thameikdawdaya Thukhitayama Daw Nanacari Myanaung Nunnery, South Montlokhsaungkon Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
46. Nun Daw Javanaani, Myat Lay Sein Nunnery, Sayaygon Ward, Wakema, Ayeyawady Region

Ganthavacaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Candasiri, Dhamma Rekkhita Wuntho Monastery, North Shansu Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
2. Dr Bhaddanta Nanissara, Yamanya Nikaya Buddhism Learning Centre, Thanhle Model Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State

TO BE CONTINUED

Notification 2/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

11. U Kyaw Win

Director-General (Retd)

Ministry of Education
12. Dr Than Than Myint

Director-General (Retd)

Ministry of Education
13. Dr Aung Swe Tun

Director-General (Retd)

Ministry of Education
14. Daw Hnin Kyi

Director-General (Retd)

Ministry of Education
15. Dr Win Naing

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
16. Dr Than Tun

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
17. Dr Aung Kyaw Thin

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
18. Dr Yaw Han Tun

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
19. Dr Htay Aung

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
20. Dr Aye Aye Tun

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
21. Dr Than Htut Lwin

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
22. Dr Khin San San Win

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
23. Daw New Ni

Director-General (Retd)

Ministry of Science and Technology
24. Professor Dr Tin Min

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
25. Professor Dr Hsan Hsan Win

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
26. Professor Dr Mya Thu

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
27. Professor Dr Nwet Nwet Oo

Director-General (Retd)

Ministry of Health
28. Professor Dr Yi Yi Tin

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
29. Professor Dr Khin Thet Wai

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
30. Professor Dr Marlar Myint

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
31. Dr Sein Hla Htwe

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
32. Professor Dr Mya Mya Aye

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
33. Dr Kaung Myat San

President, Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation

Medal for Excellent Performances in Administrative Field (Third Class)

1. U Zaw Oo

Director-General (Retd)

Ministry of Border Affairs
2. Dr San Win

Acting Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
3. Dr Nay Thwe Kyi

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
4. Dr Cho Cho Myint

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
5. Dr Myintzu Min

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Education
6. Dr Myint Myint Khaing

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Science and Technology
7. Daw Thin Thin Aye

Deputy Director-General (Retd)

Ministry of Legal Affairs
- Legal Expert
8. U Kyaw Zaw Lin

Director

Ministry of Home Affairs
9. U Aung Myo Thein

Director

Ministry of Home Affairs
10. U San Hlaing

Director

Ministry of Home Affairs
11. Professor Dr Kyaw Hla

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
12. Professor Dr Tin Maung Han

Rector (Retd)

Ministry of Health
13. U Kyaw Htet Lin

Vice President, Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation
14. Dr Kaung Myat Tun

Vice President, Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation

Medal for Excellent Performances in Social Field (First Class)

1. Daw Lily Kya Nyunt

Athlete (Gymnastics)
2. Maung Ye Tun Naung

Athlete (Body-building and Physique)
3. U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing

Chairman, Smart Group of Companies

Outstanding Economic Medal

Medal for Excellent Performances in Service Economy (Third Class)

1. U Kyaw Min Aung

Acting Factory Manager

Ministry of Industry
2. U Aung Ko Htaik

Deputy General Manager

Ministry of Industry
3. U Kyaw Kyaw Oo

Chairman, Myanmar Iron and Steel Association

Medals for Outstanding Professions

Outstanding Performance in Arts Field (First Class)

1. U Hla Aye

Chairman, Former Judicial Employee Association
2. U Kyaw Tin

Member, Myanmar Accountancy Council

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Defence and Security Council
Second Amendment to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law
(National Defence and Security Council Law 17/2025)
13th Waxing of Pyatho 1387 ME
31 December 2025

THE National Defence and Security Council enacted this law under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

- This law shall be called the Second Amendment to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
- The expression “the Ministry of Health and Sports” mentioned in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be substituted with the expression “the Ministry of Health”, respectively.
- The expression “Coca tree” mentioned in Section 2 (a) (i) and Section 16 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be replaced with the expression “Coca”, respectively.
- Subsection (i) shall be added behind Section 2 (h) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law as follows: -
“(i) “Life imprisonment” means a prison sentence imposed on a convicted person requiring them to remain incarcerated until death”.
- Section 6 (f) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be substituted as follows: -
“(f) adopting the plans to rehabilitate the drug users, conducting the rehabilitation courses for nurturing them to improve physical and mental capabilities in addition to vocational training with organizing, counselling, providing appropriate aids and reuniting them to the proper society,
- Subsection (l) shall be added behind Section 7 (k) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law as follows: -
“(l) other necessary task forces”
- Section 9 (b) (g) and (h) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be substituted as follows: -
“(b) The Ministry of Health shall make the necessary arrangements to provide medical treatment to drug users and, upon completion of treatment, to transfer them to the relevant rehabilitation camps.
(g) If a drug user fails to enter into a bond in accordance with an order issued under subsection (f), or breaches any of the conditions of the bond so imposed, the court shall order that the person be sent for a period of three months to the relevant rehabilitation center established for the purposes of medical treatment and care in this regard.
(h) The Ministry of Health shall be responsible for providing necessary medical care to drug users who are sent to and arrive at the relevant rehabilitation camps during the period of rehabilitation.
- The expression “drug users” mentioned in the preamble of Section 11 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be replaced with the expression “persons required to undergo drug detoxification and rehabilitation”.
- Section 13 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be substituted as follows: -
“(a) searching and seizing chemical precursors, money, materials and accessories identified as the materials used in narcotic drugs, stimulant drugs and narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances related to the crime and arresting the offenders”
- The expression “telecommunication business” mentioned in Section 13 (e) and Section 17-A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall, in each case, be replaced with the expression “government department, government organization, private enterprise, or private organization”.
- Section 14-A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be replaced as follows: -
“14-A. Regardless of what is stated in any existing law, when an order is issued by the central authority under this law concerning records and information related to an offence, responsible persons in government departments, government organizations, private enterprises, or private organizations shall permit the inspection and copying of records related to the offence”.
- Section 15 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be replaced as follows: -
“15. If a drug user, sent to a rehabilitation center under Section 9 (g) flagrantly violates the instructions and rules issued by the relevant rehabilitation center during the period of placement, they shall, under the supervision of the authorities and in the prescribed attire, perform community service activities such as planting trees, carrying out cleaning tasks, repairing roads and bridges, and working with social organizations for public benefit. These tasks must be carried out manually, free of charge, for at least 45 hours and up to a maximum of 90 hours per week.

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ASEAN Chair’s Special Envoy pays courtesy call on ...

FROM PAGE 1

They also discussed the successful holding of Phase I of the election on 28 December 2025, the conditions for conducting Phases II and III of the election in the remaining townships, the monitoring by international election observation teams during Phase I of the election, and the participation of the Philippines, which provided positive assessments of the election.

In addition, the two sides exchanged views on the conditions under which elections are being held in Myanmar to ensure that all citizens retain their democratic rights, as well as on political cooperation between Myanmar and the Philippines. They further held a frank and open discussion on promoting cooperation in the economic and trade sectors and on how Myanmar can continue to enhance cooperation within ASEAN.

After the meeting, the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, together with the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair to Myanmar and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, exchanged souvenirs before taking a group photo with the attendees. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL



National Objectives for 79th Union Day 2026

1. To work together among all ethnic nationals to achieve the country’s prosperity and food security, the national goal of the country.
2. To cooperate hand-in-hand with the government, Tatmadaw and all ethnic nationals in successfully implementing the measures for stability and rule of law.
3. To strive together with ethnic armed groups to establish a lasting peace, while propagating justice, freedom and equality within the country.
4. To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, practising a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system through the friendship, trust, unity and collaboration of ethnic people.
5. To cooperate, ensuring the development of education, health and socioeconomic status of ethnic nationals and the emergence of a developing country.

Foreign Head of State sends congratulatory message to Acting President Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following is congratulatory message from Foreign Head of State/Government sent to Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I am pleased, as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar celebrates its National Day, to offer your esteemed person my most sincere congratulations and heartfelt wishes for good health and happiness, and your friendly people further progress and advancement, while reiterating our readiness to work towards the enhancement of the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, and their upgrading to a broader level to serve the supreme interests of our friendly countries.
Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Foreign Heads of Government send congratulatory message to Prime Minister on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following are messages of felicitation from Foreign Heads of Government sent to Prime Minister U Nyo Saw on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia sends Congratulatory Message to U Nyo Saw, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency, the government and the friendly people of Myanmar on the momentous occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Cambodia places great importance on the enduring bonds of friendship shared with Myanmar. Over the years, our cordial relations have been nurtured, and our mutually beneficial cooperation has steadily developed through our collective efforts. In order to sustain this momentum, I remain committed to working closely with Your Excellency to further strengthen our ties within both bilateral and multilateral frameworks.
Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for your good health and for lasting peace and prosperity for the people of Myanmar.

Mr Sifi Ghrieb, Prime Minister of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, sends Congratulatory Message to U Nyo Saw, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it pleases me to extend to you, in the name of the Government of Algeria and on my behalf, the warmest congratulations, together with the best wishes for good health and wellness to you, and more progress and prosperity to the friendly people of Myanmar.
I would also like to seize this opportunity to express to you my readiness to work together with you to further strengthen the existing relations and to revitalize bilateral cooperation in various fields, in a manner that serves the mutual interest of our two friendly peoples.
Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Foreign Ministers send congratulatory messages to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following are the messages of felicitation from the Foreign Ministers sent to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the commemoration of the 78th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I have the great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and the friendly people of Myanmar.
The enduring friendship between Cambodia and Myanmar, rooted in our shared cultural and religious heritage and strengthened by mutual trust and respect, continues to flourish. I stand ready to work closely with Your Excellency to further deepen our cooperation in promoting mutually beneficial cooperation, peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Second Amendment to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law

FROM PAGE 3

13. The expression “life imprisonment without limit” in the introduction of Sections 19 and 20 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be replaced, in each case, with the expression “life imprisonment”.
14. The expression “16 years of age” in Section 22 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be replaced with the expression “18 years of age”.
15. Section 24 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be replaced as follows: -
- “(a) When a sentence is imposed for any offence specified in Sections 16 to 21, an order shall be issued for the seizure, destruction, or management in accordance with regulations, as state property, of the drugs, psychotropic substances, or chemicals declared to be used in the production of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, as well as money, equipment, movable property, vehicles, and animals related to the offence”.
16. Section 26 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law shall be replaced as follows: -
- “26. Whoever possesses any of the following narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances in quantities, weights, or amounts exceeding the specified limits shall be deemed to possess them for the purpose of sale. Likewise, if such substances are transported, delivered through intermediaries, or transferred, it shall also be deemed as transport, delivery through intermediaries, or transfer for the purpose of sale”.
- (a) Three grammes of heroin

- (b) Three grammes of morphine
- (c) Three grammes of Methamphetamine
- (d) Three grammes of two or three items of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances mentioned in subsections (a), (b) and (c)
- (e) One hundred grammes of raw opium or refined opium or both
- (f) 1.5 kilogrammes of dried kratom leaves or opium speciosa and six kilogrammes of fresh kratom leaves
- (g) One hundred grammes of marijuana or marijuana extract or both
- (h) One hundred grammes of Coca leaves
- (i) Three grammes of cocaine
- (j) (j) three grammes for narcotic drugs or psychotropicsubstances except for the drugs mentioned in subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) (h) and (i) and specific weight, volume or quantities for narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances under the notification issued by the Ministry of Health not for sale
- (k) One hundred millilitres for the remaining narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, except for specifying the weight, quantity, or number of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances issued by the Ministry of Health for the purpose of sale

I hereby sign this law under Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Acting President

Voter turnout at 52.13% in Phase I election

THE sixth meeting of the Central Committee on Security Supervision for the Multiparty Democracy General Election was held yesterday afternoon at Areindama Hall, Myanmar Police Force Headquarters.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairman of the Central Committee on Security Supervision, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung said during Phase I of the election held on 28 December 2025, among eligible voters at polling stations in 102 townships across the Union Territory, regions, and states, the voter turnout was 52.13 per cent. The international observer groups, as well as domestic and foreign media organizations, visited to observe the election process. Although some insurgents attempted to disrupt the election and prevent citizens from voting through intimidation,



The Central Committee on Security Supervision for the Multiparty General Election holds its sixth meeting yesterday, attended and addressed by Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung.

threats, and attacks, the election was successfully conducted.

The weaknesses should be learnt from Phase I, ensuring that the voters can cast vote peacefully and safely in the

coming Phase II and Phase III, and the affiliated departments under the ministry should carry out more effective security measures.

He then instructed the officials to supervise the parties

and candidates to follow the statements issued by the Union Election Commission.

He added that for the upcoming Phase II of the election on 11 January and Phase III on 25 January, the shortcomings

encountered during Phase I will be reviewed regarding voting machines and security affairs, and the educational processes for using the machines will also be conducted. The technological groups will also be assigned, and they also need to work with the relevant departments and election subcommissions to ensure that voters can cast their votes at the respective polling stations.

He continued that a total of 335 people – 275 males and 60 females – were taken action in 240 cases under “Law on the Protection of Multiparty Democratic General Elections from Obstruction, Disruption, and Destruction” for attempting to sabotage election processes until 5 January 2026.

The attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

FROM PAGE 4

Mr Ahmed Attaf, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad and African Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it pleases me to extend to you my warmest congratulations, together with my best wishes for good health and wellness to you, and more progress and prosperity to your friendly country.

I would also like to seize this happy opportunity to renew my readiness to work together with you to further strengthen the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between Algeria and Myanmar, in a manner that serves the mutual interests of our two friendly peoples and countries.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my expressions of cordiality and the assurance of my highest consideration.

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission

Announcement 9/2026

4th Waning of Pyatho, 1387 ME
6 January 2026

List of Elected Candidates to Region and State Hluttaws

ACCORDING to the announcements issued by the respective Region and State Election Subcommissions in the multiparty general elections held from 28 December 2025, under Section 41 (a) of the Region and State Hluttaw Election Law, the following individuals have been elected as representatives of their respective constituencies under the “First-Past-The-Post” system: -

Kachin State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
1	U Kaung Sein l	1/TaNaNa(C)000182	Tanai Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
2	U Phiram Sarr	1/PaTaAh(C)041335	(Khaunglanphu Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
3	U Chan Tan Khin	1/NaMaNa(C)003763	Naungmon Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
4	U Ngwa Dee Yor	1/MaKhaBa(C)001347	Putao Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
5	U Htet Aung	5/KhaUTa(C)087845	Moenyin Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
6	U Khet Htein Nan	1/MaKaNa(C)069429	Myitkyina Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Kayah State

7	U Soe Yel	2/BaLaKh(C)000284	Bawlakhe Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
8	U Maw Yel	2/LaKaNa(C)048261	Loikaw Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Kayin State

9	U Saw Myint Oo	3/KaKaRa(C)164612	Hpa-An Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
10	U Aye Min Htwe	3/MaWaTa(C)016987	Myawaddy Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
11	U San Ko	8/MaKaNa(C)000473	Thantaunggyi Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sagaing Region

12	Daw San Sit Shi	5/LaYaNa(C)003477	Leshi Township Representative 1	Naga National Party
13	U Haman	5/LaHaNa(C)003532	Lahe Township Representative 1	Naga National Party
14	U Nauk Tun	5/NaYaNa(C)006519	Nanyun Township Representative 1	Naga National Party
15	U Min Swe	5/KaLaHta(C)072014	Kale Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
16	Daw Aye Aye Than	5/KaThaNa(C)070295	Katha Township Representative 1	National Unity Party
17	U Htet Ko Ko Kyaw	5/KaBhaLa(C)000383	Kantbalu Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
18	U Myat Ko	9/MaMaNa(C)073804	Hkamti Township Representative 1	Naga National Party
19	U Min Min Zayya Myint	5/KaThaNa(C)000816	Sagaing Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
20	U Tint Hlaing Myint	5/MaRaNa(C)017348	Monywa Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
21	Dr Thaung Naing	5/RaBaNa(C)075124	Shwebo Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
22	Sai San Hla Soe	5/HaMaLa(C)015321	Homalin Township Representative 1	Shan-Ni (Tai-Leng) Nationalities Unity Party

Taninthayi Region

23	Dr Win Aung	12/BaHaNa(C)014234	Kawthoung Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
24	U Myat Ko	12/MaGaTa(C)068642	Dawei Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
25	U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo	6/TaThaRa(C)019518	Bokpyin Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
26	U Khine Oo	6/MaAhRa(C)098174	Myeik Township Representative 1	People’s Party

Bago Region

27	U Thein Naing	7/NyaLaPa(C)012580	Nyaunglebin Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
28	U Than Soe	7/TaNgaNa(C)135065	Taungoo Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
29	U Mya Soe	7/NaTaLa(C)000283	Nattalin Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
30	U Myo Swe Win	7/PaKhaNa(C)008087	Bago Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
31	U Aung Cho Oo	7/PaMaNa(C)117748	Pyay Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
32	U Naing Lin Swe (aka) U Htun Htun Oo	7/RaTaNa(C)070860	Shwedaung Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
33	U Aung Ko Min	7/MaLaNa(C)072174	Letpadan Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
34	U Ye Htut	12/KaMaRa(C)016272	Thayarwady Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

NATIONAL

Democracy is an administrative system,
while federalism ensures the sharing of powers and entitlements

❖ “Our ultimate goal is to build a Union-based nation founded on democracy and a federal system. Democracy is an administrative system chosen by the people, while federalism serves to share powers and entitlements.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the Peace Forum 2025 on 25 June 2025)

FROM PAGE 6
Magway Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
35	U Than Hlaing	8/KhaMaNa(C)107771	Chauk Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
36	U Aung Naing Win	8/YaNaKha(C)003613	Yenangyaung Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
37	U Tin Myint Oo	8/PaKhaKa(C)011813	Pakokku Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
38	U Hlwan Moe Htet	8/TaTaKa(C)244567	Taungdwingyi Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
39	Dr Maung Maung Htay	9/MaRaTa(C)104522	Magway Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
40	U Yan Naing Soe	8/PaPhaNa(C)075664	Pwintbyu Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
41	U Kyaw Win Myint	8/MaBaNa(C)080072	Minbu Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
42	U Kyaw Kyaw	8/ThaRaNa(C)003973	Thayet Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
43	U San Lwin	8/MaHtaNa(C)035041	Aunglan Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Mandalay Region				
44	U Soe Soe Tun	9/KaSaNa(C)108666	Kyaukse Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
45	U Sein Toe	9/NyaUNa(C)071808	NyaungU Township Representative 1	National Unity Party
46	U Win Zaw	9/KaSaNa(C)107832	PyinOoLwin Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
47	U Ko Ko Htwe	9/MaRaTa(C)007836	Chanayethazan Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
48	U Aung Kyaw Moe	13/KaLaNa(C)018170	Meiktila Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
49	U Aung Naing Nyunt	9/PaBaNa(C)005721	Pyawbwe Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
50	U Kyaw Myint	9/RaMaTha(C)002219	Yamethin Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
51	U Myo Aung	9/MaNaMa(C)093535	Aungmyethazan Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Advance voting ahead
of Phase II election
inspected in Padaung

ON 6 January, the Pyay District Election Subcommission Chairman, together with the Padaung Township Election Subcommission Chairman, visited the Wunlo Ward advance polling station in Padaung Township, Pyay District. They

inspected the numbered security seals on the advance voting boxes and observed the process of advance voting ahead of Phase II of the multiparty democratic general election. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/MKKS



Advance voting takes place in Padaung Township, Pyay District.

Philippines’ Secretary of Foreign
Affairs & Special Envoy of ASEAN
Chair to Myanmar arrives in Yangon



The Special Envoy of ASEAN Chair to Myanmar and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines is pictured upon the arrival of her delegation at Yangon International Airport.

A delegation led by Ms Ma Theresa P Lazaro, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair to Myanmar, arrived in Yangon yesterday. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by the director-general and officials from the Department of Strategic Studies and Training under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, First Secretary/Consul Mr Alan Roi Q Galoriola, Defence Attaché Col Jose P Navarro, Jr, and other relevant officials from the Embassy of the Philippines in Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

Beware of games harming players and society

THE advancement of technology brings both benefits and drawbacks. In addition to global news and information, IT experts and organizations are continuously developing and producing the best applications, games, and content related to digital technology each year.

On various digital platforms, new technologies continue to emerge, and new and exciting games that interest young people are appearing rapidly. In the era of technology, young people and mobile phones, as well as applications and games, are closely connected. While games can have positive effects, they can also have negative impacts and potentially foster undesirable habits within social interactions.

In addition to gambling games and games that encourage criminal behaviour, violent games depicting brutal acts have also emerged. Considering the recent increase in violent incidents between individuals and groups, this is a matter of concern. For this reason, the relevant authorities take measures to block and prohibit such games. Therefore, both young people themselves and their parents or guardians need to avoid games that could negatively affect their mindset or harm themselves and their surroundings.

Games are often played by young people for entertainment and enjoyment, but caution is needed when playing games that could be dangerous. Currently, games that encourage violent behaviour are emerging among youth. Whether these games are created, advertised, or used in any form, they are prohibited under the law on the prevention of violence.

In this era of advancing and changing technology, it is not wrong for games to be created to entertain people, especially young people. However, caution is needed when games are designed to go beyond ordinary entertainment and amusement, potentially influencing players' attitudes and character in negative ways.

In addition to gambling games and games that encourage criminal behaviour, violent games depicting brutal acts have also emerged. Considering the recent increase in violent incidents between individuals and groups, this is a matter of concern. For this reason, the relevant authorities take measures to block and prohibit such games. Therefore, both young people themselves and their parents or guardians need to avoid games that could negatively affect their mindset or harm themselves and their surroundings.

Where Does Your Water Come From?

By Ms Monn

AN IN-DEPTH Summary of Water Sources, Chemistry, and Their Importance for Brewing. Understanding where water comes from and how it changes as it moves through the environment is essential for brewers. Water is not a static or uniform substance; its composition is constantly altered by natural processes and human activity. This text explains how water travels through the hydrologic (water) cycle, how it acquires various chemical constituents along the way, and why these changes matter so much in brewing. Since water is the primary ingredient in beer, its chemistry directly affects brewing performance, flavour, and quality.

The Water Cycle and Water Transformation

The water cycle begins in the atmosphere, where water exists primarily as vapour. In this state, water is essentially pure H₂O. However, purity does not last long. As water vapour cools and condenses into droplets within clouds, it absorbs gases and particles from the surrounding air. Carbon dioxide is particularly important because it dissolves readily in water and plays a major role in determining water acidity. In addition to gases, dust particles and microscopic mineral crystals such as sand or sodium chloride also become incorporated into water droplets. These particles not only aid condensation but also contaminate water even before it reaches the ground.

As droplets grow larger, they fall as precipitation in the form of rain or snow. Once precipitation reaches the Earth's surface, it becomes surface water. At this point, water begins interacting directly with soil, plants, rocks, animals, and human activities. The longer water remains on the surface, the more substances it absorbs. These substances may include organic matter such as decaying vegetation or animal waste, agricultural chemicals like herbicides and pesticides, and inorganic minerals such as calcium sulfate or sodium chloride.

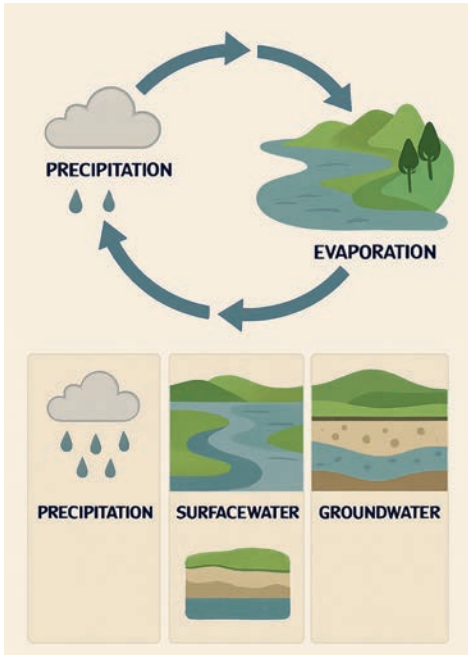
Some surface water seeps into the ground, passing through layers of soil and rock. During this process, much of the organic matter is filtered out, but the water becomes exposed to additional minerals. This subsurface water is known as groundwater. Groundwater may remain underground for hundreds or even thousands of years, giving it ample time to dissolve minerals from surrounding geological formations. In regions with carbonate rocks, such as limestone, groundwater

often develops high hardness and alkalinity – characteristics that are especially significant in brewing.

Eventually, groundwater returns to the surface through wells, springs, rivers, and streams. At any stage, water may also evaporate back into the atmosphere, completing the cycle. Each phase of this journey alters water chemistry, making no two water sources exactly alike.

Main Sources of Fresh Water and Their Characteristics

There are three principal sources of fresh water: precipitation, surface water, and groundwater. Each source has advantages and disadvantages for brewing.



Precipitation

Water from rain or snow is typically very low in dissolved minerals and organic matter. Its total dissolved solids are often below 20 parts per million. However, precipitation absorbs gases from the atmosphere, especially carbon dioxide, which forms carbonic acid and lowers water pH. As a result, rainwater is naturally acidic, with a typical pH between 5.0 and 5.5.

In industrialized or polluted regions, precipitation can contain elevated levels of sulfates, nitrates, heavy metals, and other contaminants. In extreme cases, pollution leads to acid rain with pH values as low as 2.6. Despite these potential contaminants, precipitation generally has very low alkalinity and minimal buffering capacity, making it chemically unstable for brewing without treatment.

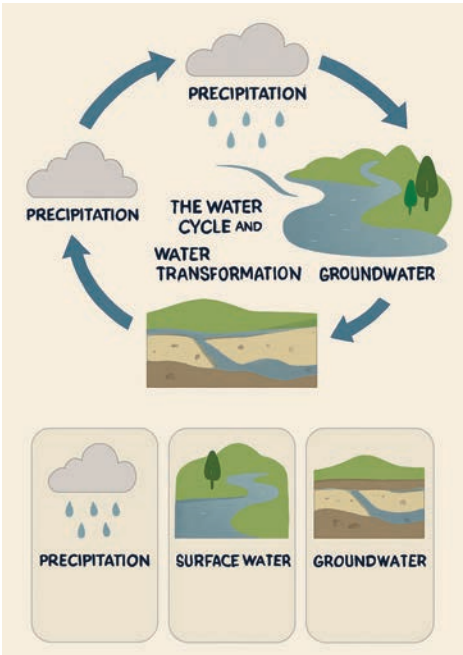
Surface Water

Surface water includes rivers, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. Compared to precipitation, surface water usually contains

higher levels of dissolved minerals, organic matter, and alkalinity. Its pH typically ranges from 6.0 to 8.0.

The chemistry of surface water varies widely depending on geography, geology, flow rate, climate, and human activity. Fast-flowing Mountain streams often resemble fresh precipitation because water has little time to dissolve minerals. In contrast, large slow-moving rivers accumulate sediments, organic matter, and agricultural runoff as they pass through floodplains.

For example, the Mississippi River flows through limestone-rich regions and therefore has relatively high alkalinity and a pH near 8. The Amazon River, by contrast, flows through siliceous rock and organic-rich soils. Its water contains humic acids from decaying vegetation,



giving it a brown, tea-like appearance and a lower pH, usually below 6.

Lakes can undergo seasonal changes due to thermal stratification. During summer and winter, layers of water form based on temperature and density. In spring and autumn, mixing occurs, redistributing nutrients and oxygen. These seasonal changes can promote algal blooms and microbial activity, which may produce unpleasant tastes and odours such as earthy or musty aromas caused by compounds like geosmin and MIB. Treating such water often requires activated carbon filtration.

Groundwater

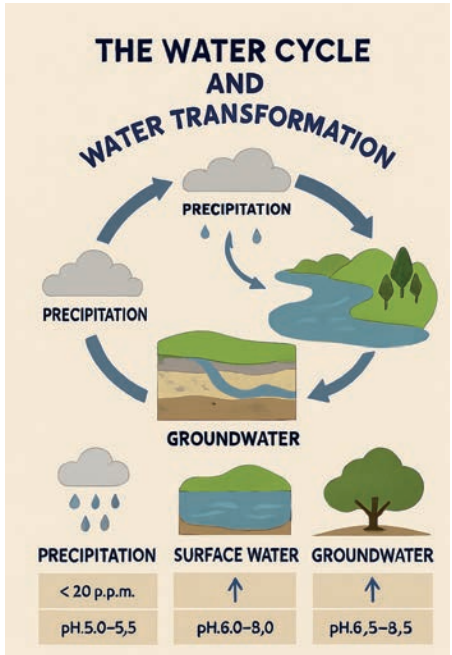
Groundwater forms when surface water infiltrates soil and rock layers and accumulates in aquifers. The age of groundwater varies greatly, from less than a year to several thousand years, with a global average of about 250 years. Extended contact with rock and soil allows groundwater to dissolve significant quantities

of minerals, sometimes resulting in highly mineralized water that is difficult to replicate artificially.

The pH of groundwater usually falls between 6.5 and 8.5. Water outside this range can dissolve undesirable metals such as iron and manganese, which are problematic for brewing, even in small concentrations.

Aquifers are classified in several ways. Hydrogeologists distinguish between confined aquifers, which are protected by impermeable layers like clay, and unconfined aquifers, which are more exposed to surface contamination. Geologists classify aquifers based on rock type, which provides insight into water chemistry.

The five main aquifer types identified by the US Geological Survey are:



Sand and gravel aquifers – Typically low in dissolved minerals but more vulnerable to contamination.

Sandstone aquifers – May contain gypsum and often produce highly mineralized water due to long residence times.

Carbonate rock aquifers – Composed of limestone and dolomite; commonly yield hard, alkaline water.

Sandstone and carbonate aquifers – Often produce very hard water; Burton-on-Trent is a famous brewing example.

Igneous and metamorphic aquifers – Low mineral content due to poor solubility of rocks like granite and basalt.

Each aquifer type influences water chemistry differently, which historically shaped regional beer styles.

pH, Alkalinity, and Buffers

Although pH measures acidity or alkalinity, it alone does not fully describe

brewing water. More important is alkalinity, which reflects water's buffering capacity – its resistance to pH change. Buffers, primarily bicarbonates in drinking water, react with acids and bases to stabilize pH.

Measuring pH without knowing alkalinity is misleading, much like measuring voltage without knowing battery capacity. Understanding both pH and buffering systems is essential for managing mash chemistry and brewing consistency.

From Source to Faucet: Municipal Water Treatment

Most brewers obtain water from municipal supplies rather than directly from natural sources. Municipal water may come from multiple sources blended to ensure year-round reliability. Although drinking water is treated to meet safety standards, it is not automatically suitable for brewing.

Typical treatment steps include screening, coagulation, filtration, aeration, softening, and disinfection. Organic matter and particles are removed through coagulation and filtration, while iron and manganese are oxidized and filtered out. Hard water may be softened using lime treatments. The final steps involve pH adjustment and disinfection. Utilities adjust pH to protect infrastructure and add disinfectants to prevent microbial growth in pipelines.

Chlorine and Chloramine in Brewing Water

Disinfection commonly uses chlorine or chloramine. Chlorine is effective but volatile and produces strong odours and harmful byproducts when reacting with organic matter. Chloramine, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, is more stable and produces fewer byproducts, but it is harder for brewers to remove and can negatively affect beer flavour.

Brewers can test for chlorine and chloramine using simple kits or sensory methods. Identifying and removing these disinfectants is critical for producing clean-tasting beer.

The key takeaway is simple but vital: know your water source and its characteristics. Water chemistry is shaped by the water cycle, environmental exposure, geology, and human treatment. Each source – precipitation, surface water, and groundwater – has unique strengths and challenges for brewing. Understanding these differences allows brewers to anticipate problems, make appropriate adjustments, and ultimately produce better beer.

“A day without water is like a day without life.” May we all understand the vital importance of water, just as expressed in this Myanmar proverb, and learn to protect and conserve it as something as precious as life itself.

Reference: Abridged from “Water” by John Palmer and Collin Kaminski

I Say What I See: Experiences Can't Be Bought or Taught - They Must Be Lived

How Proofreading, Editing, Seafaring, and Global Journeys Shape True Understanding

By @Editor

Some lessons are earned, not taught; some wisdom is walked, not handed over.

WORDS often appear simple, yet their depth is revealed only when we pause to examine their meanings. The word “*experience*” is one such term. According to the *Oxford Learner's Dictionary*, experience refers to “the knowledge or skill gained through doing or seeing things rather than through study”. *Merriam-Webster* defines it as “direct observation of or participation in events as a basis of knowledge”. Meanwhile, an English-Myanmar dictionary translates *experience* as ဝိသုဒ္ဓိ, a word that carries a quiet but powerful implication: something one must personally encounter and endure. These definitions, though drawn from different linguistic and cultural contexts, converge on a single truth: experience is not something that can be purchased, memorized, or transferred. It is something that must be lived. This essay, titled “**Experiences Can't Be Bought or Taught — They Must Be Lived**”, explores why real understanding comes not from instruction alone, but from walking the path ourselves, step by step.

My own understanding of experience did not come overnight, nor did it arrive through formal instruction alone. I began my professional journey as a proofreader, carefully scanning lines written by others, correcting errors without altering intent. Later, as an assistant to the editor, I learned that editing was not merely about grammar or style, but about judgement, deciding what mattered, what needed clarity, and what demanded restraint. Eventually, stepping into the role of an editor, I realized that no handbook could fully prepare one for the responsibility of shaping narratives, balancing accuracy with sensitivity, and making decisions that would stand public scrutiny. Each role added a layer of understanding that could only be gained by doing, not by being told.

Beyond the newsroom, life at sea further deepened my perspective. As a seafarer, I learned that the ocean is an unforgiving teacher. No classroom lesson can replicate the tension of navigating rough waters, the discipline required aboard a vessel, or the quiet lessons of teamwork and trust under pressure. At sea, mistakes are not theoretical; they have immediate consequences. That environment instilled in me a respect for experience as a matter of survival, not prestige – a lesson that stayed with me long after stepping ashore.

Leadership, too, revealed its lessons only through practice. Serving as the head of an organization affiliated with an international federation exposed me to responsibilities far beyond titles. Coordinating across cultures, managing differing viewpoints, and upholding shared principles in a global framework demanded patience, adaptability, and humility. Attending international meetings, seminars, and forums reinforced one truth repeatedly: experience cannot be imported.

NATIONAL

MoFA Union Minister discusses with Philippines' Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy of ASEAN Chair on Myanmar

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, held a discussion with Ms Ma Theresa P Lazaro, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and Special Envoy of ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, who is currently paying a working visit to Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

During the Meeting, the Union Minister supported the Philippines as the Chair of ASEAN in 2026. He briefed on the continued efforts of the Government of Myanmar to restore peace and stability in the country, the successful convening of the first phase of the Multi-party Democratic General Election and preparation for the second and third phases of the General Election. He emphasized Myanmar's active cooperation with neighbouring countries as well as regional and international partners in addressing transnational crime and online scams. He updated the repatriation of foreign nationals, including the Philippine citizens who were involved in online scams, to their respective countries and discussed matters relating to further strengthening



Union Minister U Than Swe holds talks with the Philippine's Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy of ASEAN Chair on Myanmar yesterday.

of cooperation between the two countries.

Furthermore, the Union Minister stated that Myanmar and the Philippines have enjoyed friendly and constructive relations for 70 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. He recalled mutual assistance and support between the two countries during times of

natural disasters and expressed gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for sending an emergency rescue team as well as providing assistance in response to the recent Mandalay earthquake. He also conveyed his appreciation for dispatching the diplomats from the Philippine Embassy in Yangon to observe phase one of

the general elections and acknowledged the successful and systematic conduct of the election.

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines noted and appreciated the updates, including Myanmar's efforts and cooperation with the ASEAN Chairs in the implementation of the Five Point Consensus. She thanked Myanmar as a member of ASEAN for its constructive cooperation with ASEAN's efforts and the initiatives led by the ASEAN Chair. While adding that the working visit was her first introductory visit to Myanmar as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, the Secretary expressed her readiness for continued engagement with Myanmar. She also thanked the Government of Myanmar for facilitating the repatriation of the Philippine nationals who were victims of the online scams and discussed possible areas of cooperation to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister hosted a lunch in honour of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and her delegation at the Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Project and Policy Loan Scrutinizing Team Meeting 1/2026 held



The Project and Policy loan Scrutinizing Team Meeting 1/2026 is underway yesterday, addressed by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

THE Project and Policy Loan Scrutinizing Team Meeting 1/2026 was held yesterday at the Department of Internal Revenue, Office 46, and attended by Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue, and Chairman of the Project and Policy Loan Scrutinizing Team.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Chairman of the Scrutinizing Team, highlighted that the Myanma Economic Bank has been providing loans, including short-term and long-term commercial loans and MSME loans

for projects and policy activities that require long-term investment for national development by using the savings of the public at the Bank. He emphasized that the "Project and Policy Loan Scrutinizing Team" has been established to provide loans to businesses and scrutinized loan applications submitted for K1,500 and above. He noted that currently, there are seven project loans and four policy loans; in total, 11 loans are repaying the outstanding loans. Therefore, he noted that this meeting aims to make a

record and to coordinate the management of the project and policy loans in a timely manner.

Deputy Minister Daw Than Than Lin, Secretary of the Team, then presented that the loan issues for projects and policies, regular repayment of loan principal and interest, and possible ways to collect remaining loans in line with loan procedures.

The joint secretary, managing director of the Myanma Economic Bank, also presented the meeting resolution of the previous Project and Policy Loan Scrutinizing Team 1/2022 and the status of implementation and progress regarding project and policy loans.

Afterwards, the members discussed matters relating to legal and loan repayment. Then, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Chairman of the Team, made the concluding remark and adjourned the meeting.

Also present at the meeting were Daw Than Than Lin, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr Htein Lin Oo, Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs, Dr Lin Aung, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, and departmental heads. — MoFR

MSF opens free maritime English class for first batch

LED by the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF), the first maritime English class has been ongoing this month, free of charge.

Prior QR code registration is required, and there are 50 eligible individuals in the first batch scheduled from 5 January to 16 January.

If there are people who fail to attend the first batch after registering, they are also eligible to join the next batch by registering again.

For more information, enquiries can be made to the following contact numbers: 01 8381592, 09 5061358, 09 40066702, 01 8392076, and 01 8395820, stated MSF. — MT/ZS



The 1st maritime English class of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF).

NATIONAL

A total of 22,773 domestic and foreign tourists visited beach resorts in Ayeyawady Region during the New Year holiday period in early 2026, according to the Ayeyawady Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

During the holiday period from 1 to 4 January, tourists travelled to the region’s main beach destinations – Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha, Shwethaungyan and Goyangyi Island. Ngwehsaung received 12,293 domestic tourists and 395 foreign tourists, while Chaungtha welcomed 9,488 domestic tourists and 37 foreign tourists. Shwethaungyan recorded 509 domestic tourists and 19 foreign tourists, and Goyangyi Island received 32 domestic tourists. In total, 22,773 tourists visited the four beach destinations.

In 2025, Ayeyawady Region recorded 1,521,619 visitors, comprising 1,502,663 domestic tourists and 18,956 foreign tourists. With strong tourist arrivals at the start of the New Year, tourism

Ayeyawady beaches welcome 22,000+ visitors during New Year



and resorts and 55 guesthouses, while the Shwethaungyan Beach offered six hotels and three guesthouses. In Pathein and other areas, a further 49 hotels and resorts and 315 guesthouses were also open to visitors.

“The New Year holiday brought 22,773 domestic and foreign tourists to four beach destinations in Ayeyawady Region,” said U Aung Thu Oo, Director of the Ayeyawady Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. “The increase in tourist arrivals created job opportunities for residents. Local products, restaurants and tourism-related businesses enjoyed high income, and trading activity along travel routes was also lively. We are pleased that this has contributed to departmental revenue.”

During the extended New Year holiday, foreign tourists from 13 countries visited beach resorts in Ayeyawady Region. According to the department, visitors from China, Russia, India



Images from above to top show holidaymakers vacationing at beaches in Ayeyawady Region such as Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha and Shwethaungyan, Goyangyi Island among others – the most popular destinations for holidaymakers.

operators and business owners estimate that visitor numbers this year could exceed those of last year. To accommodate both domestic and foreign visitors, beach resorts across the region provided extensive accommodation facilities. At the Ngwehsaung Beach, 38 hotels and 70 guesthouses were in operation. The Chaungtha Beach had 32 hotels and Thailand accounted for the largest numbers. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL

Hlawga Park rolls out “Let’s Go Camping for Fun” programme



Hlawga Park, located near Yangon, has introduced a new programme titled “Let’s Go Camping for Fun” specifically designed for those who cannot afford the time for long-distance

travel.

Spacious, peaceful, and naturally beautiful Hlawga Park is situated just a short distance from the city, and it is an ideal destination for people with limited travel time and those who wish to enjoy nature through camping.

Resort Area IV within the park has been designated as the camping area for this programme. Park authorities have arranged all the necessities for camping visitors.

To help relieve daily exhaustion and enjoy relaxation with family and friends, visitors can choose from various pre-arranged packages, including five-person packages, 10-person packages and 15-person packages.

The camping packages include delicious food options such as the country-style menu set and the camping menu set. The park invites everyone to participate in these camping activities to relax and enjoy with loved ones during their holidays.

According to the park manager, Hlawga Park (Yangon) sees approximately 500 visitors daily from Monday to Friday. On weekends, the number of visitors increases significantly, ranging from 2,000 to 5,000 people. – MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Myanmar deports 32 undocumented foreign entrants

MYANMAR deported 23 Pakistanis, three Zimbabweans, three Cameroonians, two Liberians and one Zambian, totalling 32 individuals, involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday.

Myanmar authorities officially handed the deportees the necessary legal documents to ensure their smooth repatriation.

Between 30 January 2025 and 6 January 2026, a total of 14,135 illegal immigrants were



This photo displays Myanmar Immigration processing the deportation of foreign immigrants.

identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 11,777 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries, while arrangements are being made to deport the remaining 2,358 individuals. These individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

Govt pushes ahead with demolition of illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko and KK Park



Scam hub-related facilities are seen before dismantling.

THE government of Myanmar manages the combined team comprising security forces, administrative bodies and local authorities to raid illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, where telecom fraud and online gambling activities are operated, and systematically dismantle the confiscated

materials and illegal buildings used in the online scams and gambling activities.

Yesterday, the combined team dissolved 21 more illegal buildings – one four-storey building, one five-storey building in Section 3 of the Myawady-Maethawtalay (KK Park) area, seven one-storey buildings, ten

two-storey buildings, and two four-storey buildings in Section 2. Therefore, a total updated number of 631 buildings out of 635 illegal buildings have been demolished in Section 2 of the KK Park area.

To destroy the illegal buildings within Section 3 of KK Park area, these buildings were demolished using machinery and fire barrels starting from 14 December, and as of yesterday, another five two-storey buildings have been destroyed, and a total of 111 buildings have been destroyed.

The government considers the eradication of telecom fraud and online gambling crimes as a national responsibility and, to ensure that such activities can no longer operate within Myanmar, will continue its efforts in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries. — MNA/MKKS

Offenders arrested for attempting to disrupt elections

TO prevent disruption of the Multiparty Democratic General Election, security forces have been taking effective action against individuals who attempt to interfere with the elections through activities such as speeches, statements, gatherings, protests, writing, posting, or displaying images on social media platforms and in public spaces, in accordance with the Law on the Protection of Multiparty Democratic General Elections from Obstruction, Disruption, and Destruction.

On 27 December at 6:40 am, in Yangon Region, Mingaladon Township, on the Pansodan flyover, a placard intended to mislead the public about the election was discovered. Investigation revealed that two individuals, Arkar Min (aka) Yan Cho and Ko Zin (under investigation), living in Thakayta Township were offenders. Arkar Min (aka) Yan Cho was arrested, and on 29 December, he was charged at Mingaladon Township Police Station under Section 23 (a)/28 of the Law on the Protection of Multiparty Democratic General Elections from Obstruction, Disruption, and Destruction.

Similarly, on 31 December, Ma Win Moe Pye, who lives in Marga ward of Myinmu of Sagaing Region, used the TikTok account “LEONAR” to post

messages intended to mislead the public about the elections. She was charged on 31 December at Myinmu Township Police Station under Section 23(a) of the same law.

Moreover, on 31 December, while patrolling Thakayta Township, security forces found Aung Pyae Phyo (aka) Shafee, at Ward 4/North, Thakayta Township, damaging a campaign vinyl board for parliamentary candidates of USDP by throwing bricks at it. The inspection confirmed approximately one foot of damage to the vinyl board. Aung Pyae Phyo was charged on 31 December at Thakayta Township Police Station under Section 23 (a) of the same law.

On 2 January 2026, Win Maung Phyu, from Ward 44 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region, shared posts on his Facebook account “Win Maung Phyu” that contained misleading content about the election. Win Maung Phyu was charged on 2 January at Dagon Myothit (North) Township Police Station under Sections 23(a)/ 28 of the law.

The offenders are being effectively prosecuted in accordance with the Law on the Protection of Multiparty Democratic General Elections from Obstruction, Disruption, and Destruction. — MNA/KTZH

Mottos for
79th Union Day 2026

1. Unity is strength,
Unity is power,
Peace is beauty.

2. Let's build lasting peace
for the Union's development

3. National brethren, let's unite
and join hands for the Union

4. Unity boosts friendship
Harmony brings peace

Daily newspapers
available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

UK new car sales top 2M in 2025 as demand for electric vehicles rises

NEW car sales in Britain exceeded two million units in 2025 for the first time since the pandemic, driven largely by rising demand for electric vehicles (EVs) and the growing presence of Chinese car brands, industry data

showed Tuesday.

A total of 2.02 million new cars were registered in Britain last year, up 3.5 per cent from 2024, according to figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). While

still below the pre-pandemic level of 2.31 million recorded in 2019, the result marked a return to the industry's long-term annual average.

EVs accounted for around 23 per cent of total registrations in 2025,

with fully electric car sales rising by nearly a quarter year on year to a record level.

Chinese brands continued to gain wider acceptance among British consumers, with registrations of electric and

hybrid models from manufacturers such as BYD, MG and Chery rising steadily. Preliminary figures showed that Chinese manufacturers accounted for nearly 10 per cent of new car registrations in 2025, almost double their

share a year earlier.

The SMMT said the increase reflected wider consumer adoption of battery electric and plug-in hybrid models, although overall progress towards electrification remained uneven.—Xinhua

Sony Honda Mobility EV to debut in Japan in 2027

THE joint venture of Sony Group Corp and Honda Motor Co will introduce its Afeela 1 electric vehicle to the Japanese market in the first half of 2027, the company said Monday.

Sony Honda Mobility Inc made the announcement as it unveiled a prototype of the vehicle at a media event ahead of the Consumer Electronics Show 2026, one of the world's largest technology trade fairs, which opens Tuesday in Las Vegas. Afeela 1, a four-



Photo shows Sony Honda Mobility Inc's preproduction model of the Afeela 1 electric vehicle displayed in Las Vegas on 5 January 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

door, five-seater sedan equipped with advanced sensors and an immersive audio system, was initial-

ly scheduled to make its Japan debut in 2026, but the date was pushed back. —Kyodo

Solar power becomes Germany's 2nd-largest electricity source in 2025: report

THE electricity generated by solar power systems in Germany accounted for around 18 per cent of the country's domestic power generation in 2025, making solar energy the second-biggest source

of electricity, according to a report published on Monday.

According to the report released by the German Solar Association (Bundesverband Solarwirtschaft e.V.), more than

5.5 million photovoltaic systems installed across Germany generated around 87 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity last year, an increase of 20.83 per cent compared with 2024. —Xinhua

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong Max Agro Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**Pure Crop Chemical Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Pure Crop Chemical Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Max Power 500 WP	Bensulfuron-methyl 10% + Bispyribac-sodium 40% WP	P2025-6817

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong Zouping Nongyao Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**Aventine Limited**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Aventine Limited. Ph-09401573814.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Armo Paung Fighter	Bentazone 48% SL	P2025-6818

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong Max Agro Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**T Trade Company Limited**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. T Trade Company Limited. Ph-09401573814.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Max Nico	Nicosulfuron 4% OD	P2025-6838

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (096W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (096W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (551W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (551W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (A2601W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (A2601W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES/ESSAY

WORLD

European leaders voice support for Denmark after Trump claims on Greenland



Icebergs float in the water off Nuuk, Greenland, on 7 March 2025. PHOTO: AFP

A group of European leaders on Tuesday underlined their support for Denmark after US President Donald Trump again voiced designs on its autonomous Arctic territory of Greenland.

The leaders of France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain as well as Denmark said that sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders were “universal principles, and we will not stop defending them”.

Washington’s military intervention in Venezuela has reignited

fears about Trump’s designs on Greenland, which has untapped rare earth deposits and could be a vital player as polar ice melts, opening up new shipping routes.

Greenland is on the shortest route for missiles between Russia and the United States, and Washington already has a military base there. With the situation in Venezuela more pressing, Trump quipped on Sunday that “we’ll worry about Greenland in about two months”.

The European leaders’ joint

statement said: “Arctic security remains a key priority for Europe and it is critical for international and transatlantic security.

“NATO has made clear that the Arctic region is a priority and European allies are stepping up.

“We and many other allies have increased our presence, activities and investments, to keep the Arctic safe and to deter adversaries.”

They stressed that Denmark — including Greenland — was part of NATO. — AFP

I Say What I See: Experiences Can’t Be Bought or Taught – They Must Be Lived

FROM PAGE 9

One may listen to speeches and read reports, but real understanding comes only when one engages, negotiates, and occasionally stumbles in unfamiliar territory.

Travelling to foreign countries further underscored this reality. Each journey brought encounters that challenged assumptions and broadened perspectives. Cultural differences, communication gaps, and moments of misunderstanding became lessons in empathy and adaptability. These were not lessons that could be memorized; they had to be lived. Over time, such experiences quietly reshaped how I listened, how I judged, and how I responded, both as a professional and as a person.

In the end, experience stands apart from all other forms of learning. It cannot be bought with money, taught through instruction alone, or borrowed from another’s success story. Dictionaries across cultures affirm this truth, and life reinforces it relentlessly. Guidance, education, and advice may point the way, but they cannot replace the journey itself. Each role I have lived — proof-reader, editor, seafarer, organizational leader, traveller — has confirmed that understanding grows only through engagement, endurance, and reflection. Experience remains the most honest teacher of all: demanding, sometimes painful, yet profoundly transformative. To live fully, therefore, is not to seek shortcuts, but to accept experiences as they come, knowing that only by living them do we truly learn.

Experience is the teacher that never retires; it follows, challenges, and transforms every step of the way.

No major damage reported from strong Japan quake

A strong 6.2-magnitude earthquake shook western Japan on Tuesday but no tsunami warning was issued and no major damage was reported.

The tremor was recorded at 10:18 am (0118 GMT) in Shimane prefecture at a shallow depth, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said.

The US Geological Survey recorded a slightly lower 5.8 magnitude reading which it then lowered to 5.7.

The quake measured upper-five on Japan’s Shindo scale of shakiness in the west-

ern city of Yasugi.

At that level, heavy furniture may fall and drivers can have trouble steering.

The JMA said that the same region was hit soon afterwards by smaller quakes with magnitudes of 4.5, 5.1, 3.8 and 5.4, also with no tsunami alerts.

No abnormalities were detected at the Shimane nuclear plant as of 10:45 am, broadcaster NHK said, citing utility company Chugoku Electric.

Parts of the Shinkansen bullet train network were sus-

pended due to a power blackout, operator JR West said. It was unclear if this was related to the quakes.

The military said it was conducting an aerial damage assessment and had established a disaster response liaison office.

“The government is collecting information on damage... People in the regions that were hit by strong shakes please continue to be careful about more quakes of the same strength,” Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said. — AFP



Photo taken on 6 January 2025 shows a collapsed stone wall in Houki, Tottori Prefecture, after powerful earthquakes hit the region earlier in the day. PHOTO: KYODO

SPORTS

CURRENT champions Shan United secured an away victory and officially established themselves as the mid-season champions of the Myanmar National League MNL.

On 5 January, Dagon Star United defeated Rakhine United 2-0, while Dagon Port beat Ramanya United 7-2. On 6 January, Shan United recorded a 4-0 victory over ISPE, and Yangon United defeated Maha United 4-0. Meanwhile, Ayeyawady United and Thitsa Amarn drew 0-0.

Shan United’s away win allowed them to finish three points ahead of second-placed Yangon United, confirming their mid-season championship. Shan

Shan United clinches away win to secure mid-season championship



Shan United in action against ISPE FC.

United’s goals were scored by Ye Yint Aung in the first minute, Thurein Tun in 83 minutes, Myat Kaung Khaunt in 90+3 minutes, and Khun Kyaw Zin Hein in 90+4 minutes. This victory

extended Shan United’s unbeaten streak, which has lasted 89 matches since the 2020 season.

For Yangon United, second-half goals secured their win over Maha United. Head coach U Zaw Lwin Htun could not manage the team on the field due to health reasons, so U Than Wai served as interim head coach. Yangon United’s goals were scored by Mo Gu in 49 minutes, Rintaro Hama in 64 and 86 minutes, and Kaung Si Thu in 83 minutes.

The final mid-season match will continue today at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, where Yadanabon FC will face Hanthawady United. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Barcelona clear favourite in Spanish Supercup semifinal

FC Barcelona opens its Spanish Super Cup campaign against Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah, with the La Liga leader favoured to reach the final.

Barcelona arrives in stronger form than Athletic, which finished fourth last season but has struggled for consistency this year.

In Saturday’s win over city rival Espanyol, goalkeeper Joan Garcia produced a standout performance against his for-

mer club, while Dani Olmo and Robert Lewandowski scored to seal three points.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick can rotate his attacking options, with Olmo and Lewandowski joined by Fermin Lopez and Pedri among the players available, underlining the team’s depth. Athletic, by contrast, has been hampered by injuries throughout the season, with Maroan Sannadi, Benat Prados, Unai Egiluz and Aymeric Laporte among those sidelined. — Xinhua

Dias sidelined with Gvardiol as Man City face defensive crisis

MANCHESTER City will be without Ruben Dias for up to six weeks and fellow defender Josko Gvardiol for “a long time”, manager Pep Guardiola said on Tuesday.

The club announced on Monday that centre-back Gvardiol was facing a lengthy lay-off with a tibial fracture to his right leg that he suffered in Sunday’s 1-1 draw with Chelsea.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, on the eve of City’s home game against Brighton, Guardiola confirmed the depth of the crisis in central defence, with John Stones also sidelined.

Guardiola said Dias had injured his hamstring and would

be out of action for “between four and six weeks” while he did not put a timescale on Gvardiol’s return. Referring to Stones, Guardiola said: “(He is not) ready for the next games. Of course, he’s an important player for us for a long time and he was injured for a long time last season. This season looks the same.

“He’s trying a lot and trying everything, but he’s not fit”.

Guardiola, whose team are second in the Premier League, six points behind leaders Arsenal, said he was confident they could cope with the absences.

“With the spirit that we have, always we can cope,” he said. — AFP

Australian Open title rivals ease through in Brisbane warm-up



Belarus’ Aryna Sabalenka hits a return to Spain’s Cristina Bucsa during their women’s singles match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane on 6 January 2026. PHOTO: AFP

AUSTRALIAN Open title rivals Aryna Sabalenka, Madison Keys and Elena Rybakina all launched their build-up with straight-sets wins Tuesday in Brisbane but home favourite Nick Kyrgios lost on his return.

Sabalenka, the world number one beaten in last year’s Melbourne final by Keys, took just 48 minutes to dispose of Cristina Bucsa 6-0, 6-1 in the second round of the season-opening tournament.

Sabalenka said the fact that she played so well in her first match of the campaign showed that her divisive December 28 “Battle of the Sexes” exhibition match in Dubai against Kyrgios had been worthwhile.

“When you play against a guy the intensity is completely different,” said the Belarusian.

“Especially when there is Nick, who is drop-shotting every other shot, so you move a

lot, so there was a great fitness for me.

“And today I was, like, whew, let’s move around, you know”.

Sabalenka will now play Sorana Cirstea in the third round and remains on track to meet Keys in the quarterfinals, a rematch of last year’s Australian Open final.

Keys reached the Brisbane third round with a 6-4, 6-3 win over fellow American McCartney Kessler.

Like Sabalenka, Keys had a bye into the second round and said she had found it tough to find her rhythm early on.

“I think it’s sometimes a little bit harder when the person you’re playing has already played a match, and then you’re kind of trying to still knock off a bit of the rust,” she said.

“I felt like it took a little bit just to find my rhythm, but I feel like once I did it, I kind of settled in a little bit better.” — AFP

Chelsea appoints Rosenior as new head coach on long-term deal

CHELSEA has appointed Liam Rosenior as head coach of its men’s team, with the Englishman signing a long-term contract through 2032.

“Chelsea Football Club is delighted to announce the appointment of Liam Rosenior as

head coach of the men’s team,” the London club said in a statement on Tuesday.

Rosenior joins Chelsea on a five-and-a-half-year deal, with an option for a further season, replacing Enzo Maresca, who departed the club on New Year’s Day.

The 41-year-old arrives at Stamford Bridge following a successful spell abroad with RC Strasbourg, where he guided the French side to European qualification for the first time in 19 years during his debut season. — Xinhua



Over 1.53 mln registered for postal voting in Bangladesh's general election

A total of 1,533,682 voters have registered to cast their ballots by post in Bangladesh's upcoming 13th general election and the referendum scheduled for 12 February.

According to the Election Commission data released Tuesday, the registration process through the "Postal Vote BD" app concluded at midnight on Monday.

More than 127 million voters had been registered for the election for the first time since former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and left the country in August 2024, according to the commission.

Bangladesh's 13th general election has drawn a large field of some 2,568 candidates. Political parties account for the majority, with 51 parties sponsoring 2,090 candidates, while 478 are running as independents. — Xinhua

Ethiopia unveils digital system for upcoming general elections

THE National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) has launched a digital platform to modernize voter and candidate registration for the country's upcoming general elections, scheduled for mid-2026.

The newly-launched digital comprehensive platform, featuring mobile and web-based applications, reflects the NEBE's wider initiative to modernize the East African country's electoral system through the application of modern technologies, the state-run Ethiopian News Agency reported on Monday. — Xinhua

US military action against Venezuela lacks respect for intl law: UN chief



UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo (C, front) speaks at an emergency meeting of the Security Council on behalf of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at the UN headquarters in New York, 5 January 2026. **PHOTO: LOEY FELIPE/UN PHOTO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL Antonio Guterres on Monday voiced deep concern over the lack of respect for international law in the US military action against Venezuela on Saturday.

"I remain deeply concerned that rules of international law have not been respected with regard to the 3 January military action," said Guterres in a statement to the Security Council, read on his behalf by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo.

The UN Charter enshrines the prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political

independence of any state, the UN chief added. "The maintenance of international peace and security depends on the continued commitment of all (UN) member states to adhere to all the provisions of the charter," said Guterres.

The UN chief also expressed deep concern about the possible intensification of instability in Venezuela, the potential impact on the region, and the precedent that the US military action on Venezuela may set for how relations between and among states are conducted.

He called on all Venezuelan actors to engage in an inclusive, democratic dialogue in which all sectors of society

can determine their future, and urged Venezuela's neighbours, and the international community more broadly, to act in a spirit of solidarity and in adherence to the principles, laws and rules erected to promote peaceful coexistence.

"In situations as confused and complex as the one we now face, it is important to stick to principles. Respect for the UN Charter and all other applicable legal frameworks to safeguard peace and security. Respect for the principles of sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of States. The prohibition of the threat or use of force," the UN chief said. — Xinhua



Staff members from Egyptian Red Crescent stand near a truck carrying humanitarian aid as it enters Gaza from the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing on 12 October 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Reopening of Rafah crossing essential for providing sufficient aid to Gaza Strip – ICRC

THE reopening of the Rafah border crossing is essential for providing a sufficient amount of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Director of Operations Yasmine Praz Dessimoz told Sputnik.

"It will take time to recover from the deficit created over

two years and replenish depleted stocks of food, medical supplies, and other essential items. The reopening of the Rafah crossing and unimpeded flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza will be necessary to ensure sufficient aid enters and people's essential needs can be met," Praz Dessimoz said.

The ICRC has hundreds of pallets of humanitarian aid, including equipment and tools for the repair and maintenance of water and wastewater services, food and household items, and medical supplies, ready to be delivered to the enclave from Jordan, Egypt and other locations, she added. — SPUTNIK